

Official Minutes for Webb County
Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2007 at 5:30 PM

(APPROVED 03/12/07)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 5:30 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Danny Valdez | County Judge |
| Frank Sciaraffa | Commissioner, Pct. 1 |
| Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina | Commissioner, Pct. 2 |
| Jerry Garza | Commissioner, Pct. 3 |
| Sergio "Keko" Martinez | Commissioner, Pct. 4 |

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 7th of February 2007. Present also were Mrs. Imelda Diaz, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court

Item No. 1. ROLL CALL BY HONORABLE MARGIE RAMIREZ-IBARRA, WEBB COUNTY CLERK

Item No. 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item No. 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2007

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 4. APPROVAL OF BILLS, PAYROLL AND MONTHLY REPORTS

Ms. Carmen Moreno, Executive Administrator of County Treasurer, explained the contents of the treasurer's report.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 5. COMMUNICATIONS

Cmr. Sciaraffa had no communications.

Cmr. Tijerina thanked Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, Juan Vargas, and Mr. Jose Luis Ramos for taking time to show her all areas in her precinct that were in dire need of help. She informed the Court that in the month of February she was happy to announce that there was a meeting held for the people from las colonias to which the response was great. She advised the public that there was going to be a free workshop held by SCAN at the Larga Vista Community Center and welcomed everyone to attend.

Cmr. Garza informed the Court that the legislative committee met and had an informative meeting in which they were able to draft the agenda for the legislative session. He went on to inform the public that paving had already started on the Del Mar project.

Cmr. Martinez informed all Webb County employees that there was a recent meeting with Jay St. John where they would like the cooperation of all employees in raising funds for the children left behind after the tragic death of their

mother. He thanked the Sheriff's Dept and Mike Kazen for their donations and advised that he also donated to the cause.

Judge Valdez commended the legislative committee especially Cmr. Garza for working very hard and meeting with the committee liaisons. He recognized Ms. Quintanilla's class from Laredo Community College for being present at the meeting.

Item No. 6. Public Comment-This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Commissioners Court on any items on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to participate must complete a Witness Card specifying which agenda item they wish to comment on. Each public member will be allowed a total of three (3) minutes within which to make any/all public comments.

1st witness card – Dr. Hector Farias (Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Veteran's Coalition)
Mr. Farias asked the Court to stop all political reprisal against the veteran's coalition. He accused Cmr. Martinez of making false statements before the Court. He explained that there was no asbestos in the property where the museum will be build

2nd witness card – Luis Felipe Farias
Mr. Farias stated that he was going to speak on behalf of the veteran's museum and asked the Court to think carefully before they spoke. He commended the Court and Cmr. Pct. 16 on doing the right thing when purchasing the property which was about \$90,000.00. He advised the Court if their interest was to protect the tax payer's money then why would they purchase the Tex Mex building for \$1 million dollars.

3rd witness card – Richard Rossell
Mr. Rossell mentioned that he does not know why Cmr. Martinez insists on undermining the museum project when this would be something good for the community.

4th witness card – Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra (Webb County Clerk)
Mrs. Ibarra presented commissions issued by Governor Rick Perry.

5th witness card – Ms. Patricia Barrera (Webb County Tax Assessor)
Ms. Barrera informed the Court that she has gotten notice from The State of Texas Department of Transportation that every county has to prepare the tax exempt license plates. She advised that Court that \$65,000.00 was budgeted for postage and to date half of this amount has been used since there are a lot of people who prefer to make payments by mail. She mentioned to the Court that she will be requesting for more funding for postage in an upcoming meeting. Ms. Barrera explained to the Court that the Judicial Court Collections will be starting the first week of March and construction of the office sight has not started.

Item No. 7. Presentation on the development of a new learning program for children and families of our community by Mrs. Sylvia Bruni, Executive Director and Mrs. Melissa Cigarroa, President of the Imaginarium of South Texas formerly known as "The Laredo Children's Museum."

Ms. Sylvia Bruni thanked Tony Juarez, Oscar Lopez, Mike Rangel, Liza Rogelio, and Oli Santos for their involvement in the development of the new learning program. She advised the Court that they all had something in common which was the value they had towards children. She thanked Webb County for being a third party funding for the Children's Museum. Ms. Bruni and Ms. Cigarroa made a presentation. (Filed at the Webb County Clerks Office)

Cmr. Sciaraffa congratulated Ms. Bruni and Ms. Cigarroa for a job well done on the project and advised them that they had his support on the new program.

Cmr. Tijerina congratulated them both and expressed her support for the new program.

Judge Valdez congratulated Ms. Bruni and her Board and advised them that they would have the support from the Court.

Cmr. Garza expressed his support towards the program and stated that the model being used was excellent.

Cmr. Martinez commended both of them for a great job on the new program especially since it is for the education of the children.

Item No. 8. Discussion and possible action to transfer position #0030 (Custodian) from Building Maintenance Department #0106 to Commissioners Court Department #0101 effective February 27, 2007. (Co-Sponsored by Hon. Sergio "Keko" Martinez, Commissioner, Pct. 4.)

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item with correction that the slot would be for Cmr. Pct. 1 office. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 9. Discussion and possible action to transfer EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$800.00) from Account #001-0201-5601 (Administrative Travel) to the El Cenizo Community Center for Account #001-6101-5603 (Car Allowance) for Slot #2290, effective February 27, 2007 Honorable Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina, Webb County Commissioner Pct. 2

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 10. Discussion and possible action to pass a Resolution of the Webb County Commissioner's Court expressing opposition to the construction of the proposed Border Wall / Fence along the U.S. - Mexico border. (Co-Sponsored by Hon. Jerry Garza, Commissioner, Pct. 3.)

Judge Valdez read Resolution. (Copy at County Clerks Office)

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11. Status Report on the Veterans Museum Project. This item is Co-sponsored by Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa.

Cmr. Garza explained that at the last commissioner's court meeting the Court had asked for an environmental assessment be conducted and he wanted to know the status on the progress. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez advised that Drash Engineering was contracted to conduct a proposal and should be turned in to him by tomorrow and if the proposal is under \$5000.00 they will submit it to Purchasing since it will not need Court approval and work should start by Monday, March 5, 2007. Cmr. Martinez advised Mr. Rodriguez that he wanted to revise the proposal before to avoid any red flags like the ones in the real estate contract between the Veteran's Coalition and Webb County. Mr. Rodriguez responded that if those were the Court's wishes he would bring the proposal and until given authorization he would submit it for payment. Judge Valdez asked how much it was going to cost to remodel the building to which Mr. Rodriguez answered that he was working on some figures and then use the process that was used to figure the Villa Antigua.

Judge Valdez motioned to go into a media break. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

MEDIA BREAK (6:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.)

Judge Valdez motioned to move up items 49, 44, and 45. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 49. Discussion and possible action to award P-2007-05 "Webb County Justice Center 5th Floor Improvements" to Sepulveda & Associates.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, explained that one proposal was submitted by Sepulveda & Associates.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approved item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez asked Joe Rubio, District Attorney, if he has been in discussion with Mr. Ramirez and Sepulveda & Associates; to whom Mr. Rubio answered that he has been in discussion with Mr. Ramirez and once the item was approved he will meet with Sepulveda & Associates and Mr. Ramirez.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 44. Discussion and possible action to select a site for construction of the new Webb County Medical Examiner's Office.

Dr. Corrine Stern, Medical Examiner, reported that this item was tabled at the last meeting. She explained that she was given three sites for the morgue; however, of the three she recommended the Hwy 59 site because it was more accessible.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve the Hwy 59 site. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez explained to Mr. Eloy Ramirez that if he was aware of his concern on whether the property has been tested for any environmental concerns. Mr. Ramirez advised that the contractor will make a presentation to the Court after he conducts an environmental test and then he will move forward with the project since they are short in time being that they need to vacate the building.

Item No. 45. Discussion and possible action to approve the design/build method of construction for the new Webb County Medical Examiner's Office and to allow the Purchasing agent to solicit proposals for the project.

Dr. Corrine Stern asked the Court to use the design/build method and allow staff to work with the contractor.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Judge Valdez asked how the design/build method works. Mr. Eloy Ramirez explained that they will have to ask for RFQs then select five firms. Once discussion has occurred with Dr. Stern, the contractor, and the County Engineer he advised that it would be brought back to the Court.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 46. Discussion and possible action to approve a construction budget for the new Webb County Medical Examiners' Office.

Ms. Corrine Stern explained that all budgeted backup for the County Morgue was included in the agenda item backup. She further explained that the new Morgue would be an estimated 4400 square feet which was budgeted at \$120.00 per sq. foot. Ms. Stern advised the Court that there were two ways for funding to be allocated for the new Morgue either by allocating the monies taken for the purchase of the antenna (which was never purchased) or monies could be taken from payroll savings as per the County Auditor. Cmr. Garza asked Mr. Eloy Ramirez why \$40,000.00 were budgeted for an Architect if they were going to go on a design/build method; to which Mr. Ramirez answered that those figures were only for a budget estimate. Cmr. Garza asked who would be overseeing the project; to which Mr. Ramirez responded that all projects are usually overseen by the County Engineer and that Ms. Corrine Stern would also be

bringing to the Court updates on the progress. Judge Valdez asked what the equipment consisted of; to which Ms. Stern explained that it was for new equipment, a digital X-ray machine was the most expensive; however she did explain that all equipment in the temporary morgue would still be utilized. Mr. Mario J. Cavazos, Public Safety Communications Engineer for Webb County, gave the Court a summary of events of how and when the replacing of the antenna was approved by the previous Court. He also stressed the importance of replacing the tower and advised the Court that the approximated cost to replace would be a little over \$300,000 in comparison to the lease agreement which would cost approximately \$5800.00 a month. He explained that the life expectancy of the new tower would be for fifty years.

Mr. Leo Flores recommended to the Court that he could get the \$160,000.00 from capital outlay of the 2003 Bond Series and the difference of \$30,000.00 would be from the Bond Series 2006 and that way the antenna funds would not be spent.

Cmr. Garza asked Mr. Tomas Rodriguez what was his study result when evaluating the existing tower. Mr. Rodriguez responded by saying that it was still in good condition.

Cmr. Garza stated that he would like to put the antenna issue on the next commissioner's court agenda to be able to resolve this matter.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve Mr. Leo Flores's recommendation to allocate funds needed from Bond Series 2003 and remaining balance from Bond Series 2006. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 12. Discussion and possible action to enter into a contract amendment with Habitat for Humanity increasing the original contract amount by ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) for a total contract sum of SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$16,000.00) for a period of 12 months (October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 13. Discussion and possible action to enter into an FMV Lease Agreement #7482111-002 with Toshiba Financial Services (Office Communications Systems, Inc.) for one (1) Toshiba ES-232 Copier to be located at the Constable Pct. 2 for a thirty-six month period (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) in the amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX DOLLARS AND THIRTY-THREE CENTS (\$126.33) PER MONTH being FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$4,547.88) over the thirty-six (36) month term of the Lease and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Constable Precinct #2; Account Number 001-2503-6014 (Equipment Rental)]
- Item No. 14. Discussion and possible action to enter into an FMV Lease Agreement #7482111-001 with Toshiba Financial Services (Office Communications Systems, Inc.) for one (1) Toshiba ES-600 Copier to be located at the Clerk's Office for a thirty-six month period (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) in the amount of THREE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FORTY-SIX CENTS (\$344.46) PER MONTH being TWELVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS AND FIFTY-SIX CENTS (\$12,400.56) over the thirty-six (36) month term of the Lease and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Clerk; Account Number 001-1120-6014 (Equipment Rental)]
- Item No. 15. Discussion and possible action to enter into an FMV Lease Agreement #7267499-011 with Toshiba Financial Services (Office Communications Systems, Inc.) for one (1) Toshiba ES-600 Copier to be located at the Road & Bridge Office for a thirty-six month period (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) in the amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS

AND EIGHTY CENTS (\$324.80) PER MONTH being ELEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-TWO DOLLARS AND EIGHTY CENTS (\$11,692.80) over the thirty-six (36) month term of the Lease and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Road & Bridge; Account Number 010-7001-6014 (Equipment Rental)]

- Item No. 16. Discussion and possible action to enter into an FMV Lease Agreement #7267499-010 with Toshiba Financial Services (Office Communications Systems, Inc.) for one (1) Toshiba ES-520 Copier to be located at the Sheriff's Office for a thirty-six month period (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) in the amount of THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS AND THIRTY-NINE CENTS (\$360.39) PER MONTH being TWELVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS (\$12,974.04) over the thirty-six (36) month term of the Lease and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Sheriff; Account Number 010-2061-6014 (Equipment Rental)]
- Item No. 17. Discussion and possible action to enter into an FMV Lease Agreement #7267499-012 with Toshiba Financial Services (Office Communications Systems, Inc.) for one (1) Toshiba ES-3500C Copier to be located at the Sheriff's Office for a thirty-six month period (October 31, 2006 through October 30, 2009) in the amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-FOUR CENTS (\$376.84) PER MONTH being THIRTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-FOUR CENTS (\$13,566.24) over the thirty-six (36) month term of the Lease and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Sheriff; Account Number 001-2061-6014 (Equipment Rental)]
- Item No. 18. Discussion and possible action to enter into a (12) twelve month (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) Premium Plus Maintenance agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions to service a Toshiba ES-232, located in the Constable Pct. #2 office at a maintenance fee of NO DOLLARS AND NO CENTS PER QUARTER (\$0.00) per quarter plus (\$0.009500) per copy, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Ruben Reyes, County Constable #2; Account Number 001-2503-6402 (Repairs and Maintenance)]
- Item No. 19. Discussion and possible action to enter into a (12) twelve month (October 31 2006 through October 30, 2009) Premium Plus Maintenance agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions to service a Toshiba ES-520, located in the Webb County Sheriff's office at a maintenance fee of FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15.00) per month or ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$180.00) over the term of the agreement and (\$0.006500) per copy, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Sheriff; Account Number 001-2061-6022 (Equipment Maintenance)]
- Item No. 20. Discussion and possible action to enter into a (12) twelve month (January 9, 2007 through January 8, 2008) Premium Plus Maintenance agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions to service a Toshiba ES-3500C, located at the Sheriff's Office at a maintenance fee of FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15.00) per month or ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$174.00) over the term of the agreement and (\$0.00900) per black copy and (\$0.0800) per color copy and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Sheriff; Account Number 001-2061-6022 (Equipment Maintenance)]
- Item No. 21. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Third Party Funding Agreement with the American Red Cross, Webb County Chapter in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS (\$5,630.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.

- Item No. 22. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Third Party Funding Agreement with the Laredo Heat Youth Soccer in the amount of EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$8,400.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.
- Item No. 23. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Third Party Funding Agreement with the Laredo Philharmonic Chorale in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.
- Item No. 25. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Third Party Funding Agreement with the USA Savate/Boxe Francaise & Canne De Combat Commission, Inc. in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$5,620.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.
- Item No. 26. Discussion and possible action to enter into a design build construction contract with Leyendecker Construction, Inc., in the amount of ONE MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,050,000.00) for the construction of a public educational, recreational, and Girl Scouts facility to be built at 1310 Guatemozin and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 27. Discussion and possible action to enter into a FY 2007 Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Program Contract (Agreement) with the South Texas Development Council (STDC) in the grant amount of THIRTY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$32,000.00) for a an approximate six month period (February 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007) to provide for a Court Coordinator to expedite scheduling of cases involving illegal dumping or other environmental violations and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve items 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, and 27 as submitted.
Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 24. Discussion and possible action to enter into a Third Party Funding Agreement with the TAMIU Guitar Ensemble in the amount of THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$3,370.00) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.

Cmr. Sciaraffa tabled item #24. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Martinez asked if there were any plans in the future to audit all third parties funding. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, explained that a process needs to be prepared which would entail that any third party funding need to go through this process first. Mr. Nathan Bratton, Assistant County Attorney, explained that at the moment all third party funding are required to go through an application process first. Mr. Leo Flores advised the Court that it was to their discretion if they would like to implement a procedure on auditing these parties.

- Item No. 28. Discussion and possible action to clarify the consolidation of the 2007 budget revenue for court collections 001-0701 and possible action to create separate accounts for Justice of the Peace and Judicial District Courts from County Court at Law Judicial Branches.

Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk, explained an outline of events on how the Court Collections Department was deleted. She notified the Court that if the Auditors department was not willing to work with her or if Ms. Patricia Barrera wanted the program she was willing to give the program back to them rather than have her staff overworked and having them input all information manually. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, explained that memos had been sent to the commissioners explaining how the budget works. He advised the Court that both Mrs. Barrera and Mrs. Ibarra had their own line items and when audit time comes both would get credit for the revenue collected.

Judge Valdez asked that if the money was being collected what was the problem? Ms. Barrera advised the Court that this could get resolved if Mrs. Ibarra, Mr. Leo Flores, MIS, and herself sit down and discuss the situation. Cmr. Garza asked if the problem was with the cash reports if they could be changed. Judge Valdez suggested that there be a meeting with Leo Flores, Mrs. Ibarra, Ms. Barrera, and MIS to resolve the situation.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to table item. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 29. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfer:
From: Repairs and Maintenance Equipment #001-1001-6402 \$1,500.000
To: Materials and Supplies #001-1001-6205 \$1,500.000

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 30. Discussion and possible action to change the title of employee slot #1561 from
Receptionist/Secretary to Court Administrative Assistant and to change the annual salary
from \$30,098 to \$32,176 effective April 1, 2007 with the increase being funded from payroll
savings of the County Auditor.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 31. Discussion and possible action to approve a refund of \$2,895.93 to Laredo Vista LP from
property tax account 992-00001-010 due to reappraised value for years 2005 and 2006.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 32. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit "Request for
Proposals" for Credit/Debit card and check payment needs for the Tax Office, County
Clerk's and Justice of the Peace offices.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 33. Discussion and possible action to finalize the procedure for selecting a Public Defender,
including but not limited to, the scheduling of interviews with applicants and the format for
said interviews and any matters incident thereto.

Ms. Cynthia Mares, Director of the Administrative Services, advised the Court that they had reached the final stages of the selection process for the Public Defender. Cmr. Tijerina recommended that each commissioner appoint a member not from the judiciary to the Selection Committee.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve Cmr. Tijerina's recommendation. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Judge Valdez asked that each commissioner appoint a member and get a date so that by next week they could get together and bring back the top two to the Court. Cmr. Tijerina appointed Jose M. Guevara. Cmr. Martinez appointed Quirino Alvarez and Judge Valdez appointed Arturo Nava. Cmr. Garza and Cmr. Sciaraffa advised that they were not ready with their recommendation

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 34.** Discussion and possible action to accept the first installment of funding from Direct Energy/CPL Retail Energy/WTU Retail Energy's Neighbor to Neighbor Program for PY-2007 in the amount of \$13,137.50. Webb County Community Action Agency will utilize these funds to help qualifying families that are in financial distress to meet energy related cost essential to their health and welfare.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 with Cmr. Sciaraffa not present.

Cmr. Martinez asked Mr. Mike Kazen, CAA Director, if these funds were divided by precinct or is it on a first come first serve basis. Mr. Kazen responded that they were divided among the community centers which were eleven and only to the people who qualified. Cmr. Garza advised that he did not want the assistance for community center to be dispensed equally since he only had one precinct; to which Mr. Kazen explained that his precinct was one of the busiest.

- Item No. 35.** Discussion and possible action to authorize the Economic Development Department to develop and submit an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs Disaster Relief and Urgent Need Project Grant Fund in an amount up to \$350,000.00 for the repair of storm damage to Webb County's 16" raw water lines and pipe embankment caused by a 6-8 inch storm on September 24, 2006, and designating the County Judge as the County's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with this application and the County's participation in the Disaster Relief and Urgent Need Project Grant Fund application.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 36.** Discussion and possible action to accept recommendations from the Webb County Housing Rehabilitation Scoring Committee on the following eligible applicants to receive assistance under the Self-Help Center Rehabilitation Program: Mr. Jonas Gomez and Mr. Mario Tejada of Tanquecitos I, and authorization for the purchasing agent to solicit bids for the rehabilitation of these two homes. [Account # 506-6500-7037-3]

Mr. Juan Vargas, Economic Development, advised the Court that there was a correction on the last name of Mr. Jonas Gomez which should be Mr. Jonas Gamez. Cmr. Sciaraffa asked who does the community outreach. Mr. Vargas explained that a self help center staff goes on a door to door outreach.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 37.** Discussion and possible action to accept recommendations from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs on the following eligible applicant to receive assistance under Webb County Economic Development Department Contract for Deed Program: Ms. Gloria Zamora of El Cenizo, TX, the authorization for the purchasing agent to solicit bids the rehabilitation of this home. [Account # 466-4301-7037-3]

Mr. Juan Vargas explained who the people who oversee these projects were after Cmr. Sciaraffa raised a concern on the type of materials being used not being the most appropriate for the money paid for.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 38.** Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a contract amendment request to The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) for additional time to complete Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) contract numbers:
TCDP 721175-12 month extension to July 4, 2008
TCDP 722205-8 month extension to December 27, 2007
TCDP 724195-12 month extension to May 12, 2008

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, explained the different contract extensions.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 39.** Discussion and possible action to accept recommendations from the Webb County Housing Rehabilitation Scoring Committee on the following eligible applicants to receive assistance under the U.S. Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant: Ms. Evelia Cremer and Ms. Maria Valdez of Bruni, TX., and authorization for the purchasing agent to solicit bids for the rehabilitation of these two homes. (Grant account currently being set up by County Auditors)

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 40.** Discussion and possible action on restructuring the Webb County Housing Rehabilitation Scoring Committee as proposed by the County Commissioner's Court on February 12, 2007.

Mr. Juan Vargas explained that in the backup was a list of the current committee members and it was up to the discretion of the Court if they wanted to change the list.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to add Mr. Leroy Medford, Executive Administrator to the County Judge's office and Mr. Mike Kazen, CAA Director and Cmr. Garza motioned to include someone from the County Engineer's office. Cmr. Tijerina seconded both motions.

Mr. Vargas advised the Court that this committee meets once a month.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Judge Valdez asked for a 15 minute break.

BREAK 8:18 p.m. to 8:33 p.m.

- Item No. 41.** Discussion and possible action to authorize final payment of retainage to Ramos Industries Inc. in the amount of \$43,840.56 for the TWDB-EDAP 1.5 million gallon per day Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant project. [Account Number Acct. No. 646-2311]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 42.** Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent and County Engineer to obtain an appraisal on a 19.5 Acre Tract located on the Northwest side of Lake Casa Blanca adjacent to Loop 20. [Account Number 664-7101-8002]

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez asked how much was the 19.5 acre tract worth? Mr. Tomas Rodriguez explained that was the reason they were asking for approval of the item to have the property appraised. Cmr. Martinez asked if there had been any negotiations with the City of Laredo. Mr. Rodriguez said no; however, Mr. Nathan Bratton explained that last year the City had requested a lease for the 19.5 acres for 25 – 50 years and that it would be wise to obtain an appraisal before negotiating anything.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to obtain three proposals and bring them back to the Court. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 43. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfer:
From: Fuel & Lubricants 001-6103-6204 \$2,000.00
To: Repairs & Maint. Vehicles 001-6103-6403 \$1,000.00
To: Materials & Supplies 001-6103-6205 \$1,000.00

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 47. Discussion and possible action to issue a "Certification Regarding Compliance with Plat Requirements and the Connection of Utilities" to authorize an electrical connection pursuant to Section 232.028(a) and (b), Local Government Code for an unplatted 2.37 acre tract of land,
described as a 2.51 acre tract, save and except a 0.14 acre tract, out of and part of Survey 1005, Abstract 1845, as further described in Vol. 1769, Pgs. 695-667, of the Webb County Deed Records; said site identified by GPS coordinates of Lat 27°27'57.19841"N and Long 98°58'13.2711"W (electricity – one dwelling only);

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 48. Discussion and possible action to donate the attached equipment pursuant to Subchapter D, Disposition of Salvage or Surplus Property §263.152,(4),(b),(C) of the Texas Local Government Code to the Laredo Crime Stoppers.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez explained that he had received a letter from the Laredo Crime Stoppers wishing from the Court the donation of a sofa which used to be at the 49th District Court.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Item No. 50. Discussion and possible action to purchase one 720T digital copier from Office Communications Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$9,050.00 through Buyboard contract number 231-05 for the District Clerk's office.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 51. Discussion and possible action to purchase one (1) digital copier in the amount of \$6,750.00 from XEROX for the Constable Pct. 4 department.
[Requested by Constable Tino Juarez, Pct. 4; Account Number 660-2502-8801]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 52. Discussion and possible action to award Bid No. 2007-64 Raw Water Improvements for the Webb County Regional Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez explained that this item was tabled at a past meeting because the Court wanted the County Engineer to value engineer the three bids submitted. He stated that the County Engineer's recommendation was to Ramos Industries.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Judge Valdez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 53. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for video surveillance system for the Sheriff's Department Crime Stoppers Division through the JAG Weed and Seed grant.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez explained that the Sheriff's Department has a grant which allows them to purchase surveillance equipment.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 54. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase sixteen (16) desktop computers and software from the following vendors through DIR-SDD- for the Juvenile Justice Center:

| Description | Vendor | Amt. |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| (16) Desktop Computers | Lenovo DIR-SDD-200 | \$15,696.00 |
| Software | SHI DIR-SDD-198 | \$ 5,728.00 |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT | \$21,424.00 |

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Cmr. Garza asked from where the monies were coming out for the purchase. Mr. Eloy Ramirez responded that they were from Bond Series 2006. Mr. Leo Flores advised the Court that everyone had purchased what was initially asked for and the only pending items were some vehicles out of Bond Series 2006. He explained that the juvenile department had some money left over from 2003 and could use up that money and the remaining balance could be gotten from 2006. Mr. Ramirez explained that the initial request was for 32 computers by the Honorable Raul Vasquez; however, Judge Vasquez advised that at least half be purchased right now.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 55. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the Community Action Agency service contracts for the CEAP Program and the Weatherization Program.

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 56. Discussion and possible action to solicit bids for Food Commodities for the Head Start Program. [Requested by Mike Kazen, Community Action Agency]

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 57. Adjournment

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to adjourn. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.